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**Dear Fellow Public Servant,**

As the Attorney General and State Auditor, we believe that government at all levels must be good stewards of the public's trust. Governments earn that trust by promoting transparency and accountability. Many of you have chosen a career in public service because you share our belief in these noble principles. As public servants, we are committed to upholding voter-approved state open government laws. Those laws proclaim:

*"The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies that serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may maintain control over the instruments that they have created."*

The week of March 15, 2009 is "Sunshine Week." We urge you take the initiative this week to renew your own commitment to government transparency and accountability. One way to do that is to examine how to use advances in technology to provide greater access to government at less expense. For instance, consider:

- Displaying on-line information on how to request records.
- Providing information on core functions such as budgets, minutes, and policies on-line.
- Responding to public records requests electronically.
- Indexing agency records electronically to speed retrieval and disclosure.
- Digitally recording public meetings and making those recordings available on-line.
- Sharing technology to reduce costs.
- Mandating periodic training on sunshine laws and open government model rules.

Access to public records and meetings is not just good government; it is a prerequisite for meaningful participation in self-governance. We serve at the consent of the public. By using the latest technology, we can work together to enhance transparency and to help the public maintain a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Sincerely,

**Rob McKenna**  
Attorney General

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State Auditor